

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-903
SEPTEMBER 17, 2002***

***Operations and Services
Hydrologic Services Program, NWSPD 10-9***

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

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OPR: OS31 (T. Helble)
Type of Issuance: Initial

Certified by: OS3 (G. Austin)

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes WSOM Chapter E-03, “Geographic Areas of Responsibility,” Issuance 00-03, dated February 23, 2000.

Signed
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September 17, 2002
Date

Geographic Areas of Responsibility

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1. Introduction. This directive describes the area of responsibility for each river forecast center (RFC) and the hydrologic service area (HSA) for each weather forecast office (WFO) in the National Weather Service (NWS).

2. River Forecast Centers. RFC areas of responsibility are designated according to major river basins and/or climatological regions. The official title of each RFC conveys its geographic area of responsibility and will be used when referring to RFCs in NWS documents and publications. Areas of responsibility for each RFC are described below, listed in alphabetical order by RFC name. These areas are shown in Figure 1.

Alaska-Pacific RFC (APRFC) is located in Anchorage, Alaska; and has responsibility for all rivers in the State of Alaska and for providing hydrologic support for the Pacific Region.

Arkansas - Red Basin RFC (ABRFC) is located in Tulsa, Oklahoma; and has responsibility for the Arkansas River basin from its headwaters in Colorado and New Mexico downstream to and including Pine Bluff, Arkansas; and the Red River basin from its headwaters in New Mexico downstream to and including Fulton, Arkansas.

California - Nevada RFC (CNRFC) is located in Sacramento, California; and has responsibility for all river basins in California (except for the Colorado River drainage in the south), the Klamath River in southern Oregon, the Quinn River in southeast Oregon, and all river basins in Nevada (except for tributaries to the Snake River in the north, tributaries to the Colorado River in the southeast, and tributaries to the Great Salt Lake and Sevier Lake in the far east portion).

Colorado Basin RFC (CBRFC) is located in Salt Lake City, Utah; and has responsibility for the Colorado River basin from the headwaters in Colorado and Wyoming downstream to the international boundary with Mexico, the river basins west of the Continental Divide in New Mexico and Arizona, the Great Salt Lake basin, and the Sevier Lake basin.

Lower Mississippi RFC (LMRFC) is located in Slidell, Louisiana, and has responsibility for all drainage and tributaries of the Mississippi River basin below Chester, Illinois; including the Big Muddy River below Murphysboro, Illinois; the Ohio River and all tributaries at and below Smithland Lock and Dam Tailwater, Illinois; the Cumberland River drainage below Barkley Dam in Kentucky; all tributaries of the Tennessee River Basin above Kentucky Dam in Kentucky



Figure 1. River forecast center areas of responsibility.

excluding the Tennessee River mainstem; and all drainage below Kentucky Dam; the Arkansas River basin and tributaries below Pine Bluff, Arkansas; the Red River basin and tributaries below Fulton, Arkansas; and all Gulf of Mexico drainages between and including the Pascagoula River basin in Mississippi west to the Calcasieu River basin in Louisiana.

Middle Atlantic RFC (MARFC) is located in State College, Pennsylvania; and has responsibility for the Atlantic slope drainages from below the mouth of the Hudson River to and including the James River basin in Virginia.

Missouri Basin RFC (MBRFC) is located in Pleasant Hill, Missouri; and has responsibility for the U.S. portion of the Missouri River basin from its headwaters in Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana down to the confluence with the Mississippi River and the U.S. portion of the St. Mary River basin in Montana.

North Central RFC (NCRFC) is located in Chanhassen, Minnesota; and has responsibility for the Mississippi River basin from its headwaters downstream to and including Chester, Illinois (except for the Missouri basin which is serviced by the Missouri Basin RFC); the Big Muddy River downstream to and including Murphysboro, Illinois; the Red River of the North basin to the Canadian border; the Souris River basin in North Dakota; the Rosseau River basin in Minnesota; the Rainy River basin in Minnesota; the Calumet River basin in Illinois/Indiana; and

the Great Lakes tributaries in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana (except for the Maumee River basin which is serviced by the Ohio RFC).

Northeast RFC (NERFC) is located in Taunton, Massachusetts; and has responsibility for the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario drainages in the State of New York; the Hudson River basin above the Passaic River of New Jersey; the Lake Champlain drainages in New York and Vermont; the streams of Long Island, New York; and all other U.S. river basins to the northeast of these basins in the New England states.

Northwest RFC (NWRFC) is located in Portland, Oregon; and has responsibility for the U.S. portion of the Columbia/Snake River basins; all of the coastal river basins of Oregon and Washington; and the Great Basin rivers of Oregon with the exception of the Quinn River (which is serviced by the CNRFC).

Ohio RFC (OHRFC) is located in Wilmington, Ohio; and has responsibility for the Ohio River basin from its headwaters downstream to and including inflow into Smithland Lock and Dam near Smithland, Kentucky; the Cumberland River and its tributaries above Barkley Dam; and the Lake Erie drainages from the Maumee River of Indiana/Ohio eastward through Pennsylvania.

Southeast RFC (SERFC) is located in Peachtree City, Georgia; and has responsibility for rivers draining into the Atlantic Ocean from and including the Albemarle Sound (Nottoway River of Virginia/North Carolina) southward to the tip of Florida, the rivers draining into the Gulf of Mexico from the southern tip of Florida north and west to and including the Mobile River (Tombigbee/Alabama River basins) of Alabama, and Puerto Rico.

West Gulf RFC (WGRFC) is located in Fort Worth, Texas; and has responsibility for rivers draining into the western Gulf of Mexico along the Texas coast, from and including the Rio Grande basin of Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico north to the Sabine River basin of Texas and western Louisiana.

3. Weather Forecast Offices. Each WFO provides site-specific hydrologic products and other hydrologic services for its HSA. HSAs are coincident with county warning and forecast areas (CWFA) as much as possible, but may deviate from the CWFA to accommodate natural hydrologic boundaries and partner/customer requirements where necessary. Site-specific hydrologic forecast and warning products are provided for the HSA while areal hydrologic products such as flood watches are provided for the CWFA. CWFAs are described in NWS Instruction 10-504, "Zone Boundaries, UGCs, Maps."

Detailed HSA definitions, maps, and descriptions of WFO hydrology program support responsibilities are contained in supplements to this directive issued by the NWS regions. NWS regions also provide HSA maps in geographic information system (GIS) compatible format (e.g., ARCView shape files). The HSA for each WFO is outlined below, listed in alphabetical order by WFO name, with official site identifier in parenthesis. A national HSA map is shown in Figure 2.

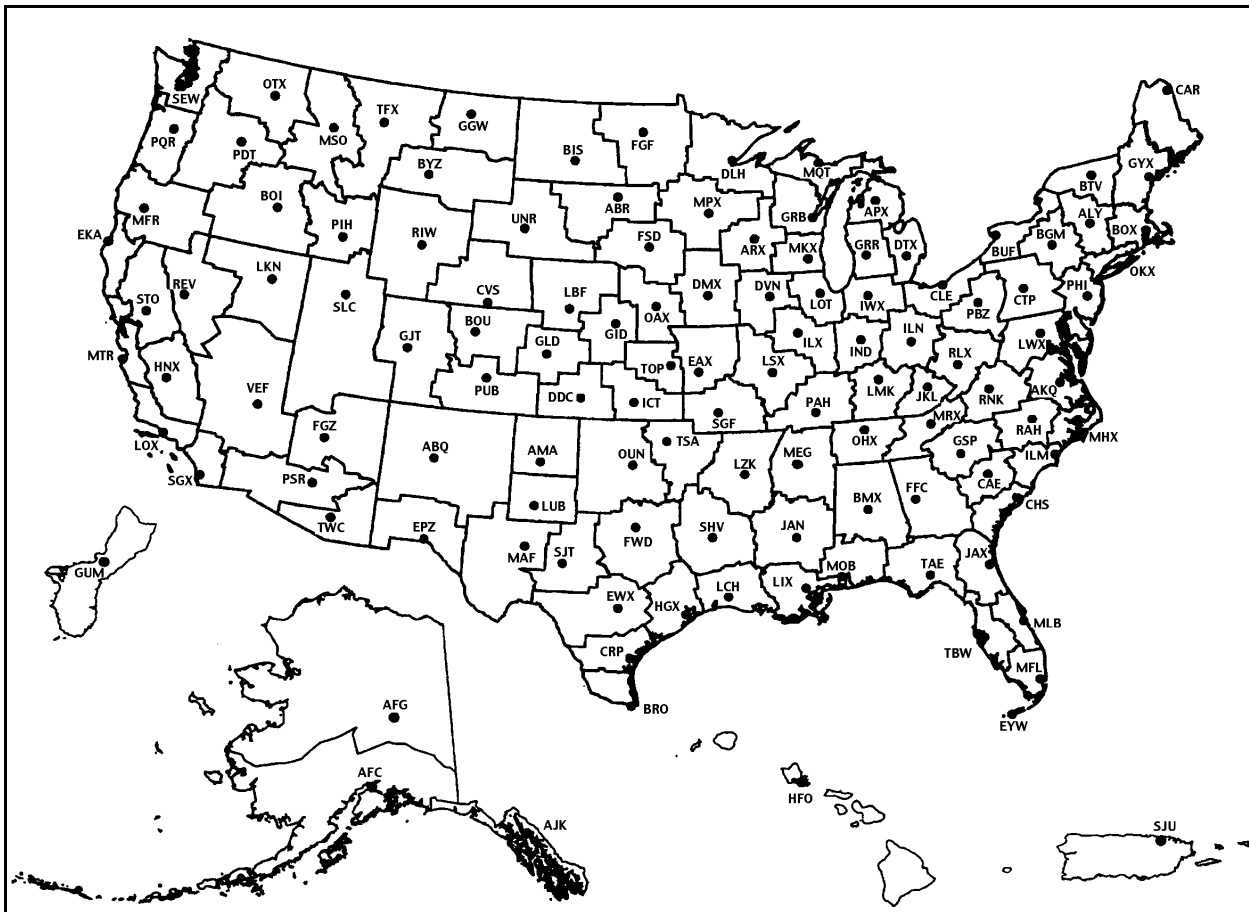


Figure 2: WFO hydrologic service areas (HSA).

Aberdeen, SD (ABR) has HSA responsibility for central, north central, and northeast South Dakota.

Albany, NY (ALY) has HSA responsibility for portions of eastern New York, northwest Connecticut, western Massachusetts, and southern Vermont.

Albuquerque, NM (ABQ) has HSA responsibility for the northern three quarters of New Mexico.

Amarillo, TX (AMA) has HSA responsibility for the central and northern portions of the Texas panhandle along with the Oklahoma panhandle.

Anchorage, AK (AFC) has HSA responsibility for the southern third of Alaska excluding the panhandle region; specifically, all drainages into the Pacific Ocean west of Cape Suckling and south of the Yukon Delta.

Atlanta, GA (FFC) has HSA responsibility for most of central and northern Georgia.

Austin/San Antonio, TX (EWX) has HSA responsibility for a portion of southern and central Texas.

Baltimore, MD/Washington, DC (LWX) has HSA responsibility for most of Maryland (except for Garrett County and the eastern shore), northern Virginia, and the West Virginia panhandle.

Billings, MT (BYZ) has HSA responsibility for the southeast quarter of Montana and Sheridan County, Wyoming.

Binghamton, NY (BGM) has HSA responsibility for portions of south central New York and northeast Pennsylvania.

Birmingham, AL (BMX) has HSA responsibility for the northern three-fourths of Alabama.

Bismarck, ND (BIS) has HSA responsibility for the western two-thirds of North Dakota.

Boise, ID (BOI) has HSA responsibility for southwest Idaho and southeast Oregon.

Boston, MA (BOX) has HSA responsibility for most of Massachusetts (except for the far west portion), southwest New Hampshire, northeast Connecticut, and all of Rhode Island.

Brownsville, TX (BRO) has HSA responsibility for the southern tip of Texas.

Buffalo, NY (BUF) has HSA responsibility for western New York and the Lake Ontario portion of northern New York.

Burlington, VT (BTV) has HSA responsibility for northern and central Vermont and northeast New York.

Caribou, ME (CAR) has HSA responsibility for northern Maine.

Central Illinois, IL (ILX) has HSA responsibility for central and east central Illinois.

Central Pennsylvania, PA (CTP) has HSA responsibility for south central, central, and north central Pennsylvania.

Charleston, SC (CHS) has HSA responsibility for southeast South Carolina and a portion of eastern Georgia.

Charleston, WV (RLX) has HSA responsibility for central, western, and southern West Virginia; southeast Ohio; and a small portion of eastern Kentucky.

Cheyenne, WY (CYS) has HSA responsibility for southeast Wyoming and western Nebraska.

Chicago, IL (LOT) has HSA responsibility for northeast Illinois and northwest Indiana.

Cincinnati, OH (ILN) has HSA responsibility for central, western, and southern Ohio, northern Kentucky, and southeast Indiana.

Cleveland, OH (CLE) has HSA responsibility for northern Ohio and the tip of northwest Pennsylvania.

Columbia, SC (CAE) has HSA responsibility for central South Carolina and a portion of eastern Georgia.

Corpus Christi, TX (CRP) has HSA responsibility for a portion of southern Texas above the southern tip of the state handled by Brownsville, TX.

Dallas/Fort Worth, TX (FWD) has HSA responsibility for east central and north central Texas.

Denver/Boulder, CO (BOU) has HSA responsibility for most of the northeast quarter of Colorado.

Des Moines, IA (DMX) has HSA responsibility for south central, central, and north central Iowa.

Detroit, MI (DTX) has HSA responsibility for the southeast third of lower Michigan.

Dodge City, KS (DDC) has HSA responsibility for west central and southwest Kansas.

Duluth, MN (DLH) has HSA responsibility for northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin.

Eastern North Dakota, ND (FGF) has HSA responsibility for the eastern third of North Dakota and northwest Minnesota.

El Paso, TX (EPZ) has HSA responsibility for the western tip of Texas and southwest New Mexico.

Elko, NV (LKN) has HSA responsibility for northeast Nevada.

Eureka, CA (EKA) has HSA responsibility for the coastal area of northwest California.

Fairbanks, AK (AFG) has HSA responsibility for the northern two-thirds of Alaska; specifically, the Yukon River and all of its tributaries, all drainages into the Pacific Ocean north of the Yukon Delta, and all drainages into the Arctic Ocean.

Flagstaff, AZ (FGZ) has HSA responsibility for north central and northeast Arizona.

Glasgow, MT (GGW) has HSA responsibility for the northeast quarter of Montana.

Goodland, KS (GLD) has HSA responsibility for northwest Kansas and small portions of southwest Nebraska and eastern Colorado.

Grand Junction, CO (GJT) has HSA responsibility for the western portion of Colorado and four counties in eastern Utah.

Grand Rapids, MI (GRR) has HSA responsibility for the southwest third of lower Michigan.

Great Falls, MT (TFX) has HSA responsibility for a large portion of central Montana.

Green Bay, WI (GRB) has HSA responsibility for central and northeast Wisconsin.

Greenville/Spartanburg, SC (GSP) has HSA responsibility for northwest South Carolina, a small portion of northeast Georgia, and a portion of western North Carolina.

Guam (GUM) has HSA responsibility for the Island of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau.

Hastings, NE (GID) has HSA responsibility for south central Nebraska and north central Kansas.

Honolulu, HI (HFO) has HSA responsibility for all of the Hawaiian Islands.

Houston/Galveston, TX (HGX) has HSA responsibility for a portion of southeast Texas.

Indianapolis, IN (IND) has HSA responsibility for most of central and southern Indiana.

Jackson, KY (JKL) has HSA responsibility for most of eastern Kentucky.

Jackson, MS (JAN) has HSA responsibility for central Mississippi, northeast Louisiana, and the southeast corner of Arkansas.

Jacksonville, FL (JAX) has HSA responsibility for northeast Florida and the southeast corner of Georgia.

Juneau, AK (AJK) has HSA responsibility for the panhandle area of Alaska; specifically, all drainages into the Pacific Ocean south and east of Cape Suckling.

Kansas City/Pleasant Hill, MO (EAX) has HSA responsibility for north central, northwest, and west central Missouri and a small portion of eastern Kansas.

Key West, FL (EYW) has HSA responsibility for the Florida Keys and the southwest portion of the Everglades.

Knoxville/Tri Cities, TN (MRX) has HSA responsibility for a section of eastern Tennessee, the panhandle region of Virginia, and two counties in the extreme northwestern portion of North Carolina.

La Crosse, WI (ARX) has HSA responsibility for southwest Wisconsin, southeast Minnesota, and northeast Iowa.

Lake Charles, LA (LCH) has HSA responsibility for southwest Louisiana and a small portion of southeast Texas.

Las Vegas, NV (VEF) has HSA responsibility for southern Nevada, northwest Arizona, and a portion of eastern California.

Little Rock, AR (LZK) has HSA responsibility for most of the State of Arkansas except for small western, southern, and eastern portions.

Los Angeles, CA (LOX) has HSA responsibility for Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties of southern California.

Louisville, KY (LMK) has HSA responsibility for central Kentucky and portions of southern Indiana.

Lubbock, TX (LUB) has HSA responsibility for a portion of northern Texas below the panhandle.

Marquette, MI (MOT) has HSA responsibility for most of the upper peninsula of Michigan and a small part of northeast Wisconsin.

Medford, OR (MFR) has HSA responsibility for southwest Oregon and a small, portion of northern California near the Oregon/California boundary.

Melbourne, FL (MLB) has HSA responsibility for the east central portion of the Florida peninsula.

Memphis, TN (MEG) has HSA responsibility for the western quarter of Tennessee, the northern third of Mississippi, a portion of eastern Arkansas, and a small part of southeast Missouri.

Miami, FL (MFL) has HSA responsibility for the southern end of the Florida peninsula.

Midland/Odessa, TX (MAF) has HSA responsibility for a large portion of western Texas and the southeast corner of New Mexico.

Milwaukee, WI (MKX) has HSA responsibility for southern and southeast Wisconsin.

Minneapolis, MN (MPX) has HSA responsibility for most of the southern half of Minnesota except for the southeast and southwest corners, and a portion of western Wisconsin.

Missoula, MT (MSO) has HSA responsibility for western Montana and northeast Idaho.

Mobile, AL (MOB) has HSA responsibility for southwest Alabama, the far west end of the Florida panhandle, and a portion of southeast Mississippi.

Morehead City, NC (MHX) has HSA responsibility for the central portion of coastal North Carolina.

Nashville, TN (OHX) has HSA responsibility for most of central Tennessee.

New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA (LIX) has HSA responsibility for southeast Louisiana and counties along the extreme southern end of Mississippi.

New York City, NY (OKX) has HSA responsibility for the southeast end of New York including Long Island, northeast New Jersey, and the southern half of Connecticut.

North Central Lower Michigan, MI (APX) has HSA responsibility for the northern third of lower Michigan and the eastern end of the upper Michigan peninsula.

Northern Indiana, IN (IWX) has HSA responsibility for most of northern Indiana and portions of northwest Ohio and southern Michigan.

North Platte, NE (LBF) has HSA responsibility for most of central Nebraska.

Oklahoma City, OK (OUN) has HSA responsibility for most of Oklahoma, except for the panhandle and the northeast portion of the state.

Omaha, NE (OAX) has HSA responsibility for eastern Nebraska and southwest Iowa.

Paducah, KY (PAH) has HSA responsibility for western Kentucky, southeast Missouri, southern Illinois, and southwest Indiana.

Pago Pago, AS (PPG) (Weather Service Office) has HSA responsibility for American Samoa - i.e., the islands of Tutuila, Manua, and Swains.

Pendelton, OR (PDT) has HSA responsibility for northwest Oregon and a portion of southern Washington.

Philadelphia, PA (PHI) has HSA responsibility for southeast Pennsylvania, all of New Jersey except for the northeast corner, all of Delaware, and five eastern shore counties in the Maryland portion of the Delmarva peninsula.

Phoenix, AZ (PSR) has HSA responsibility for south central and southwest Arizona along with most of the desert area of southern California.

Pittsburgh, PA (PBZ) has HSA responsibility for most of western Pennsylvania, part of eastern Ohio, northern West Virginia, and Garrett County, Maryland.

Pocatello/Idaho Falls, ID (PIH) has HSA responsibility for most of southeast Idaho.

Portland, ME (GYX) has HSA responsibility for southern Maine and all but the southeast corner of New Hampshire.

Portland, OR (PQR) has HSA responsibility for northwest Oregon and southwest Washington.

Pueblo, CO (PUB) has HSA responsibility for south central and southeast Colorado.

Quad Cities, IA (DVN) has HSA responsibility for most of eastern Iowa (except for the northeast corner) and the adjacent portion of western Illinois.

Raleigh/Durham, NC (RAH) has HSA responsibility for central North Carolina.

Rapid City, SD (UNR) has HSA responsibility for western South Dakota and northeast Wyoming.

Reno, NV (REV) has HSA responsibility for northwest Nevada and the eastern most portion of the Sierra counties of eastern California.

Riverton, WY (RIW) has HSA responsibility for western Wyoming except the far southwest corner.

Roanoke, VA (RNK) has HSA responsibility for the western portion of Virginia except the far western tip of the panhandle, a small portion of southeast West Virginia, and a portion of northwest North Carolina.

Sacramento, CA (STO) has HSA responsibility for north central California centered on the Sacramento Valley.

Salt Lake City, UT (SLC) has HSA responsibility for Utah (except for four eastern counties), Uinta County in Wyoming, a small portion of southeast Idaho, and the portion of northwest Arizona north of the Colorado River.

San Angelo, TX (SJT) has HSA responsibility for a portion of central Texas.

San Diego, CA (SGX) has HSA responsibility for San Diego and Orange Counties, western Riverside County, and southwestern San Bernardino County in Southern California.

San Francisco Bay Area, CA (MTR) has HSA responsibility for the central coastal area of California, including the San Francisco Bay area.

San Joaquin Valley, CA (HNX) has HSA responsibility for a portion of central California centered on the San Joaquin Valley.

San Juan, PR (SJU) has HSA responsibility for the island of Puerto Rico.

Seattle/Tacoma, WA (SEW) has HSA responsibility for northwest Washington.

Shreveport, LA (SHV) has HSA responsibility for northwest Louisiana, northeast Texas, the southeast corner of Oklahoma, and southwest Arkansas.

Sioux Falls, SD (FSD) has HSA responsibility for southeast South Dakota, the southwest corner of Minnesota, and the northwest corner of Iowa.

Spokane, WA (OTX) has HSA responsibility for central, north central, east central, and northeast Washington and northwest Idaho.

Springfield, MO (SGF) has HSA responsibility for southwest and south central Missouri and southeast Kansas.

St. Louis, MO (LSX) has HSA responsibility for east central and northeast Missouri and portions of western and southwestern Illinois.

Tallahassee, FL (TAE) has HSA responsibility for central and eastern portion of the Florida panhandle, the southeast corner of Alabama, and southwest Georgia.

Tampa Bay Area, FL (TBW) has HSA responsibility for the west central portion of the Florida peninsula.

Topeka, KS (TOP) has HSA responsibility for northeast Kansas.

Tucson, AZ (TWC) has HSA responsibility for southeast Arizona.

Tulsa, OK (TSA) has HSA responsibility for northeast Oklahoma and the northwest corner of Arkansas.

Wakefield, VA (AKQ) has HSA responsibility for southeast Virginia, four eastern shore counties in the Maryland portion of the Delmarva peninsula, and the north coastal portion of North Carolina.

Wichita, KS (ICT) has HSA responsibility for southeast Kansas and a portion of central Kansas.

Wilmington, NC (ILM) has HSA responsibility for the southern portion of coastal North Carolina and northeast South Carolina.